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DIRECTORATE OF
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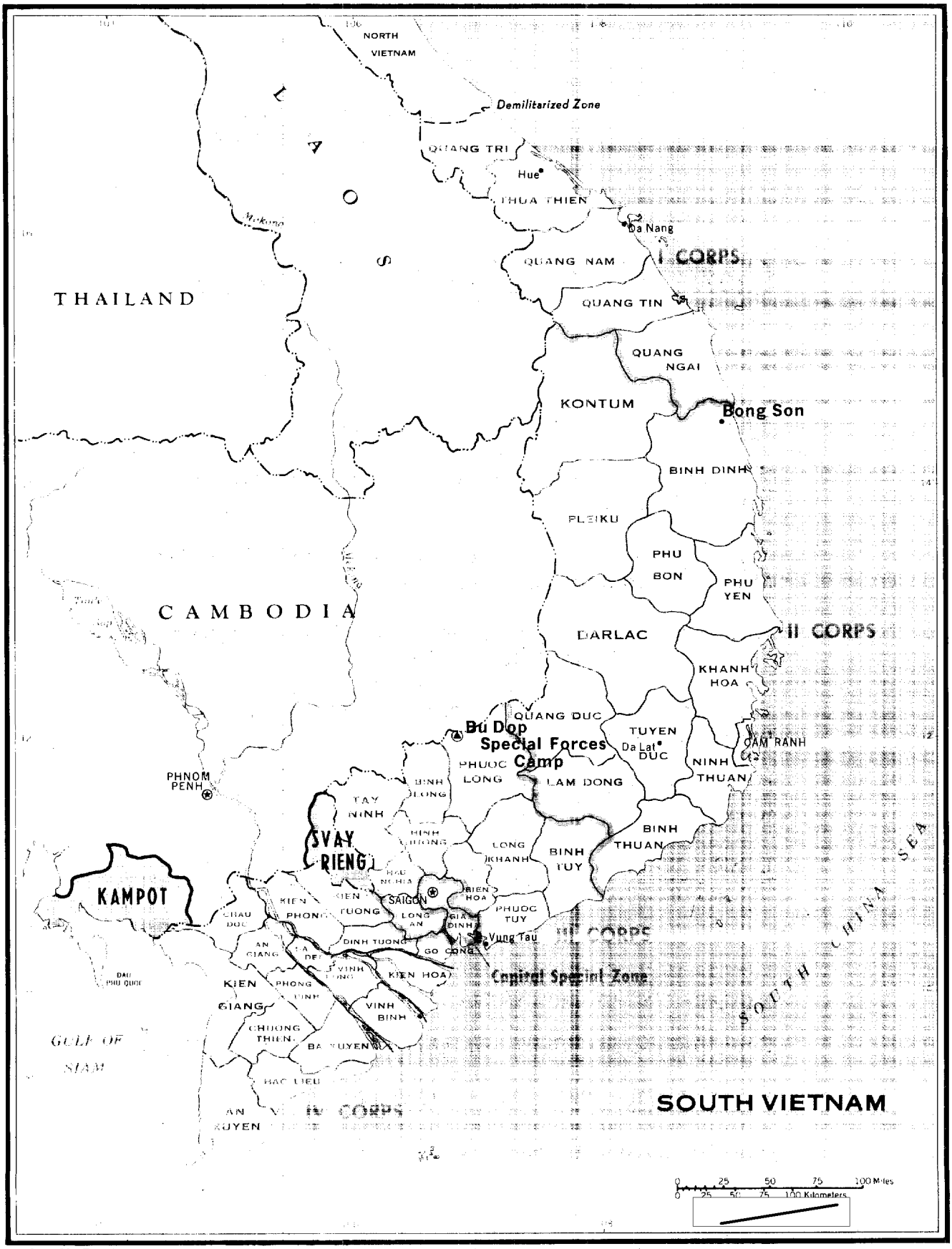

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*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: The fighting continued on 7-8 December near Bong Son between US forces and apparently revitalized elements of the North Vietnamese 3rd Division.

Enemy losses after three days of combat total more than 210 dead. American losses are reported to be 16 killed. The tenacity of the Communist forces may be explained by the fact that the battleground is near one of South Vietnam's major rice-producing areas.

Communist forces also attacked allied units in the Bu Dop area along the Cambodian border. In an abortive ground attack against a 1st Division installation near the Bu Dop Special Forces camp on 8 December, the Communists lost 48 men. 3.3(h)(2)

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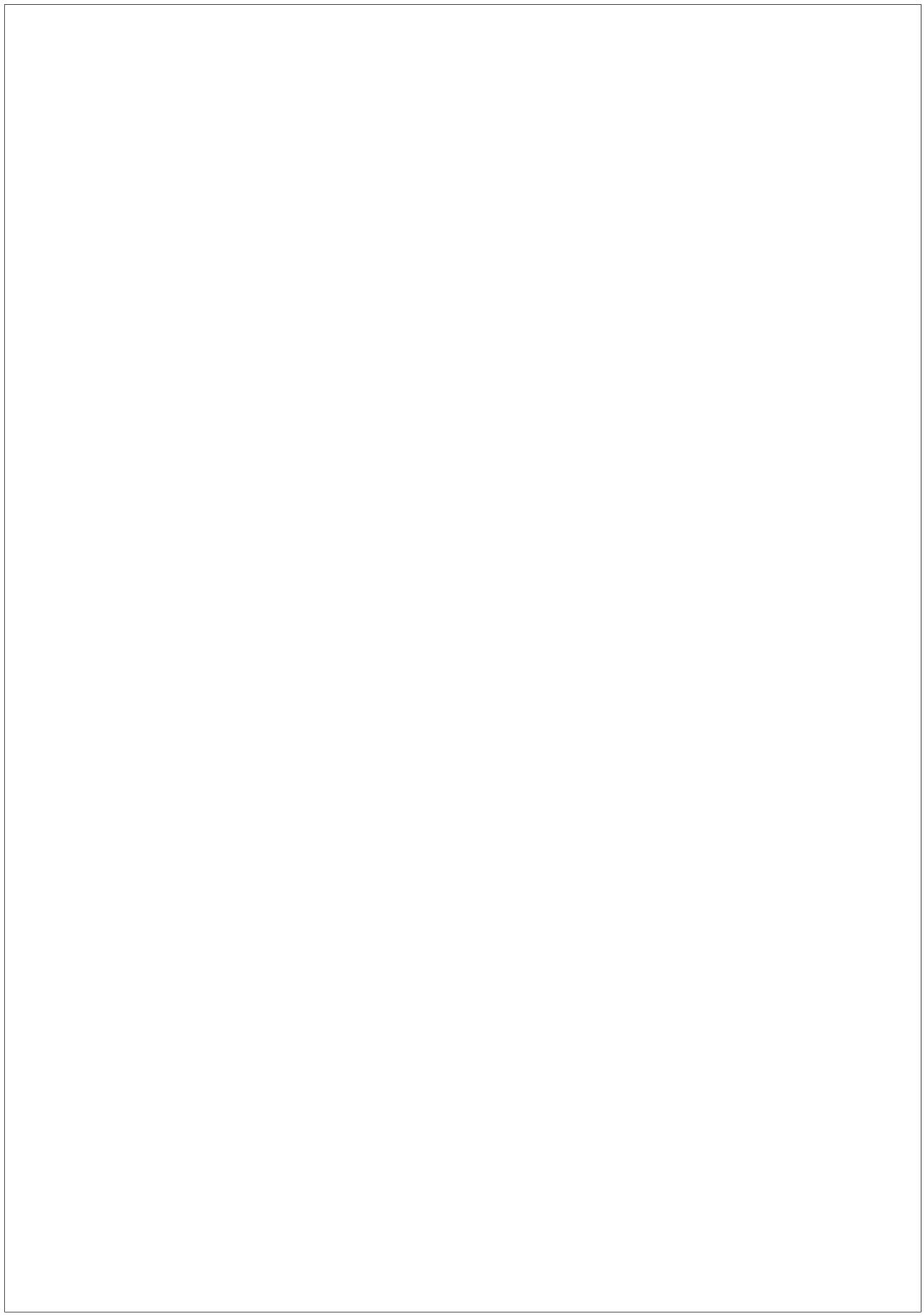

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Jordan-Iraq-France: The arms deal being negotiated between Iraq and France may in part be a cover for the eventual transfer of jet fighters to Jordan.

Such a transfer could involve either some of the Mirage jet fighters said to be included in the proposed Iraqi package or Iraqi Hawker Hunters which the Mirages would replace.

King Husayn explored with De Gaulle the possibility of getting Mirages directly from France last October. De Gaulle reportedly indicated that there was elasticity in the French embargo on arms shipments to the Middle East and that he would explore the possibility of supplying weapons to Jordan indirectly through some other Arab state.

The Iraqis may be willing to serve as middlemen; they already have supplied Jordan with [43] Centurion tanks from their own inventory. They presumably also are interested in obtaining Mirages for their own use, however, and the Iraqis may plan to replace their British-made Hawker Hunters with Mirages and to transfer the Hunters to Jordan. This would relieve Jordan, which presently has eight Hunters, of the necessity of training pilots to fly Mirages.

This possible alternative for re-equipping the Jordanian Air Force with Hawker Hunters was discussed in an Israeli radio broadcast on 28 November. The broadcast added that its correspondent in Paris had learned that Jordan would later receive Mirages through Pakistan. 3.5(c)

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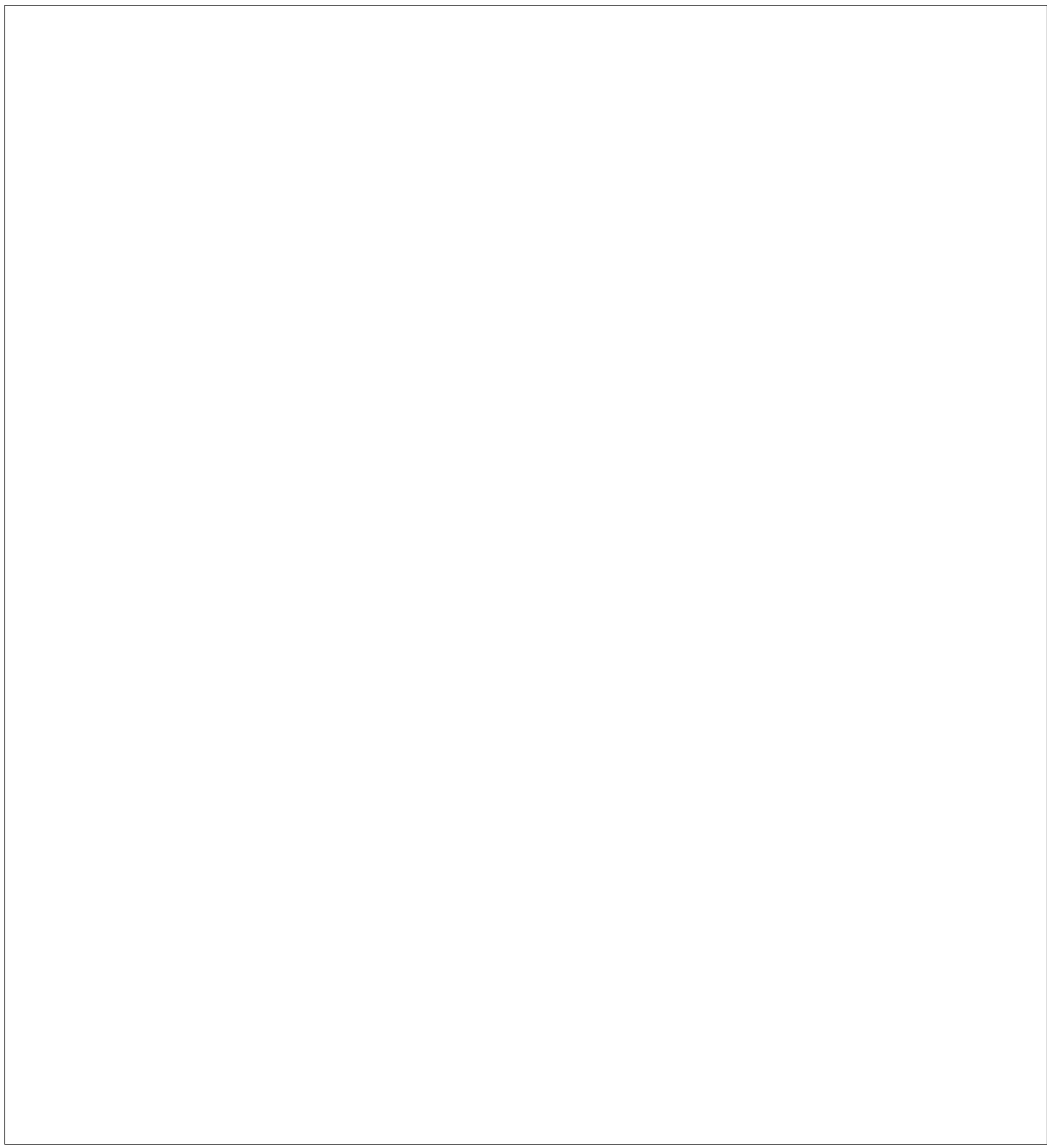

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Turkey: There has been strong criticism of the Demirel government in the wake of the Cyprus crisis.

This is an outgrowth of the expectations created by the war fever in Turkey, which peaked in late November. Members of the ruling Justice Party and some high- and middle-grade military officers have been reproached bitterly for not invading Cyprus.

A combination of extreme leftists and nationalists in parliament failed in an attempt to censure the Demirel government for its handling of the crisis. Dissension over the question will plague the government, however, especially during the upcoming annual budget debate.

The most serious threat to Demirel comes from the dissatisfaction within the military establishment.

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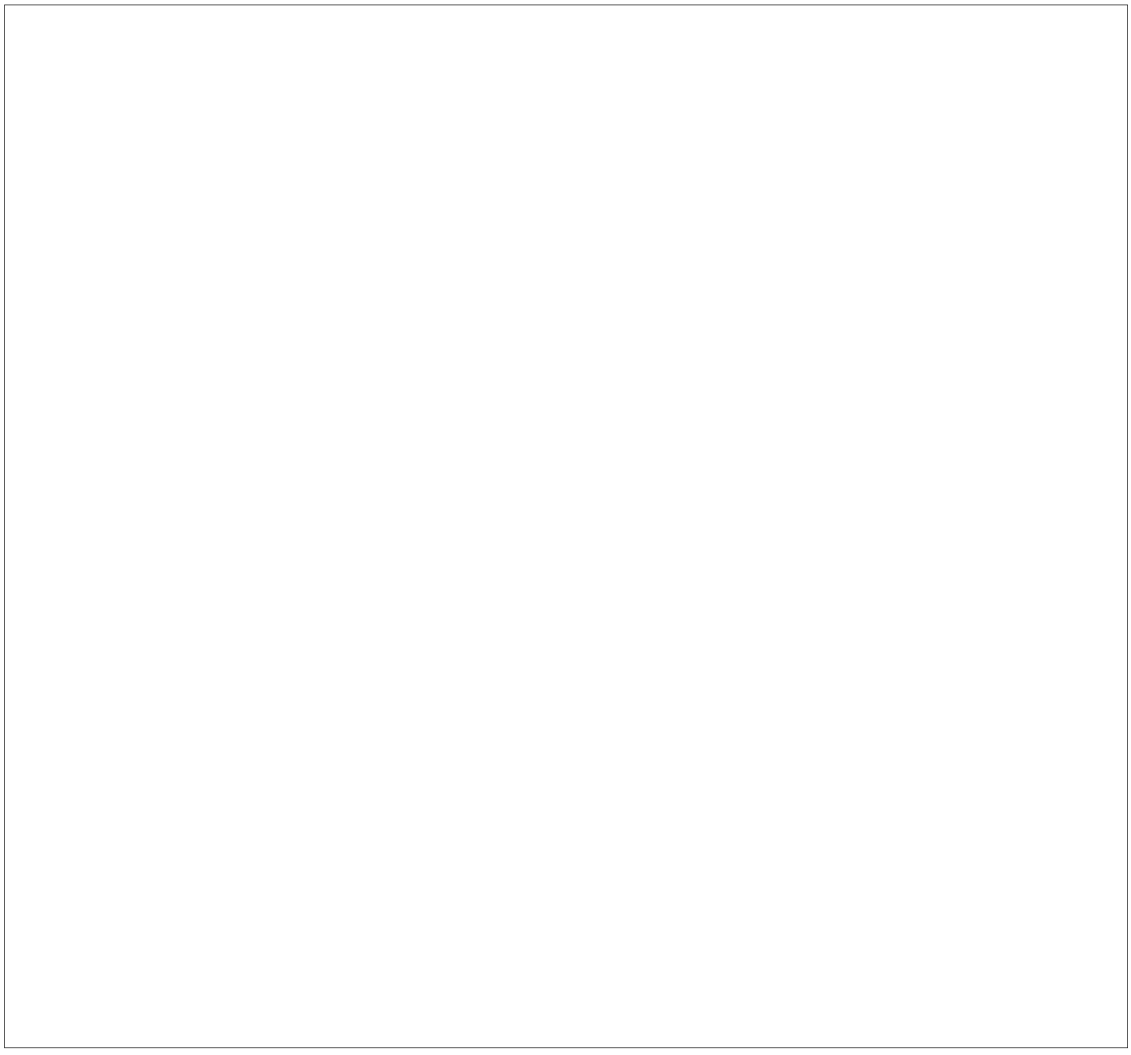

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USSR - West Germany: A Soviet broadside about the "rebirth of fascism" in West Germany makes clear that the price to Bonn for better relations with the Soviet Union remains high.

According to the Soviet declaration, there is "no other way" for Bonn to gain better relations than to accept the existence of two German states, the separate identity of West Berlin, and the permanence of Germany's borders. These conditions also apply to an exchange of agreements on the renunciation of force, which is a focal point of the conversations between Foreign Minister Brandt and Soviet Ambassador Tsarapkin.

Yesterday's attack ostensibly was occasioned by the recent convention activities of the rightwing National Democratic Party. As in a similar statement last January, Moscow accused Bonn of nurturing neo-Nazism by refusing to accept the results of World War II.

A government statement blackening Bonn is also useful to Moscow at this time in other connections. It publicly reassures East Germany by dampening its concern over the Brandt-Tsarapkin dialogue and gets a warning against West German "militarism" on the record before next week's meeting of NATO foreign ministers. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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NOTES

Cyprus: The first 400 Greek troops and some equipment were evacuated from Cyprus by ship from Famagusta yesterday. The Turks have begun to comply with their part of the recent accord. Some of the invasion forces massed in southern Turkey have regrouped at points farther from the coast, and antiaircraft protection around a major oil refinery near Mersin has been reduced. [redacted] 3.5(c)

Czechoslovakia-USSR: Brezhnev arrived suddenly in Prague yesterday for a first-hand look at the situation. His aim may well be to help shore up party boss Novotny, whose authority has been challenged in recent months. The regime has serious problems on its hands and is divided on how to handle them. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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France: Paris reportedly has decided to move ahead on a long-standing proposal to increase the strength of the nuclear submarine fleet being built for the force de dissuasion. The initial construction program called for three Polaris-type submarines, each carrying 16 ballistic missiles. A fourth submarine has now been authorized, with construction to begin in the 1970s, and the French Government is studying a plan to expand the force to five. The cost of the first submarine, without its missiles, will be about $140 million. [redacted]

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